

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1245

H.P. 820

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell,
STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3207 is enacted to read:

§3207. Working Waterfront Information Campaign Fund

The Working Waterfront Information Campaign Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward and used for the purposes of this section. The fund is administered by the office, and the office may accept and deposit in the fund money from private and public sources. In carrying out the purposes of the fund, the office shall work with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism; coastal municipal and regional governments; and organizations and coalitions that have experience advocating for the protection and preservation of working waterfronts in the State and experience working with persons who use working waterfronts in the State. In collaboration with the entities listed in this section, the office shall use the fund in the production of working waterfront information campaigns, including the design and implementation of an online and direct mail information campaign targeting tourists and new residents in coastal and island communities, to provide information about what working waterfronts are, who uses working waterfronts and opportunities to protect and preserve working waterfronts. As used in this section, "working waterfront" means a parcel of land abutting water subject to tidal influence or land located in the intertidal zone that is used primarily or predominantly to provide access to or support the conduct of commercial fishing and marine activities.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Working Waterfront Information Campaign Fund, which is administered by the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The office is directed to work with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism; coastal municipal and regional governments; and organizations and coalitions that have experience advocating for the protection and preservation of working waterfronts in the State and experience working with persons who use working waterfronts in the State. In collaboration with those entities, the office is directed to produce working waterfront information campaigns.